

# Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Annual Report 2020

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Scott Abbott



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# RPTOS Properties



Austin Bluffs Open Space  
Bear Creek Canon  
Blair Bridge Open Space  
Blodgett Peak Open Space  
Bluestem Prairie Open Space  
Broadview Open Space  
Cheyenne Meadows Open Space  
Cheyenne Mountain State Park  
Corral Bluffs Open Space  
Cottonwood Trail  
Cresta Open Space  
Douglas Creek Open Space  
Foothills Trail  
Foothills Trail  
Garden Ranch Open Space  
Greenway Parks Shop to Edmunson  
Greenway Trail  
Harlan-Wolfe Park  
High Chaparral  
High Plains Open Space  
Homestead Trail  
Incline  
Iron Horse Open Space  
Jimmy Camp Creek Park  
La Foret  
Section 16 Open Space  
Mesa Open Space  
Mesa Valley Open Space  
Midland Trail  
Mountain Shadows Open Space

North Cheyenne Canon  
Northgate Open Spaces  
Oak Valley Ranch Open Space  
Palmer Park  
Palmer Mesa Trail  
Peregrine Open Space  
Promontory Point Open Space  
Pulpit Rock  
Red Rock Canyon  
Rock Island Trail  
Rockrimmon Trail  
Sand Creek Trail - Galley Rd. north  
Silent Rain Open Space  
Sinton Pond Open Space  
Sinton Trail  
Skyline Trail  
Sondermann Park  
South Douglas Creek Trail  
South Sand Creek Trail  
Southface Open Space  
Stratton Forest Open Space  
Stratton Open Space  
Sunset Mesa Open Space  
Union Meadows Open Space  
Ute Valley  
Vindicator Knob Open Space  
Westend Open Space  
White Acres Open Space  
Woodmen Trail  
Woodmen Valley Open Space

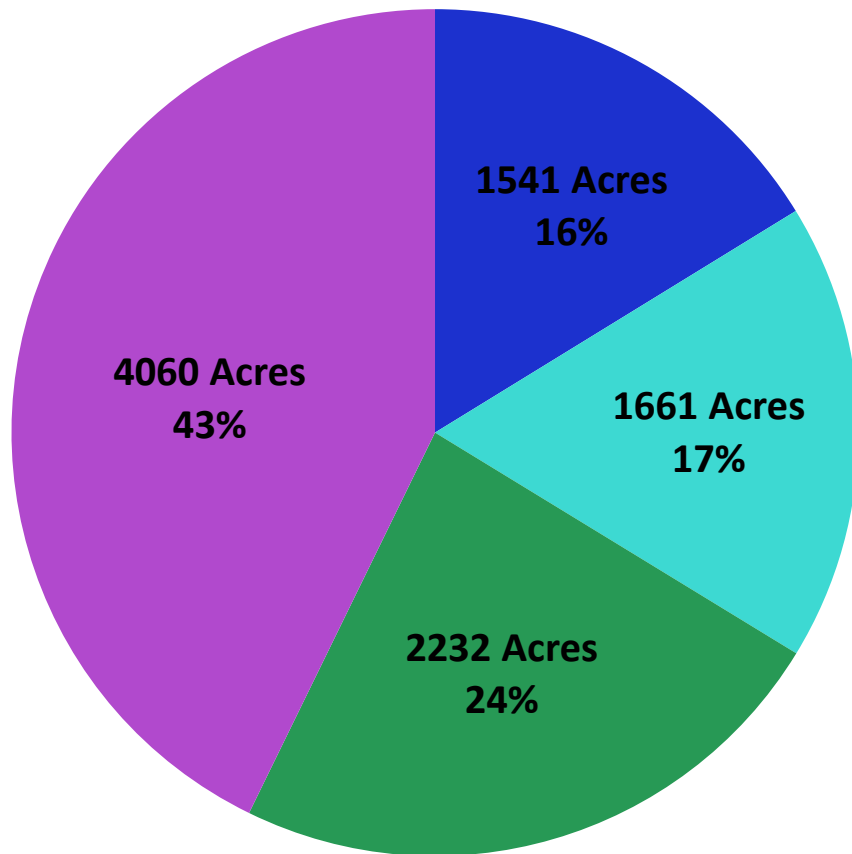
# Division Break Down



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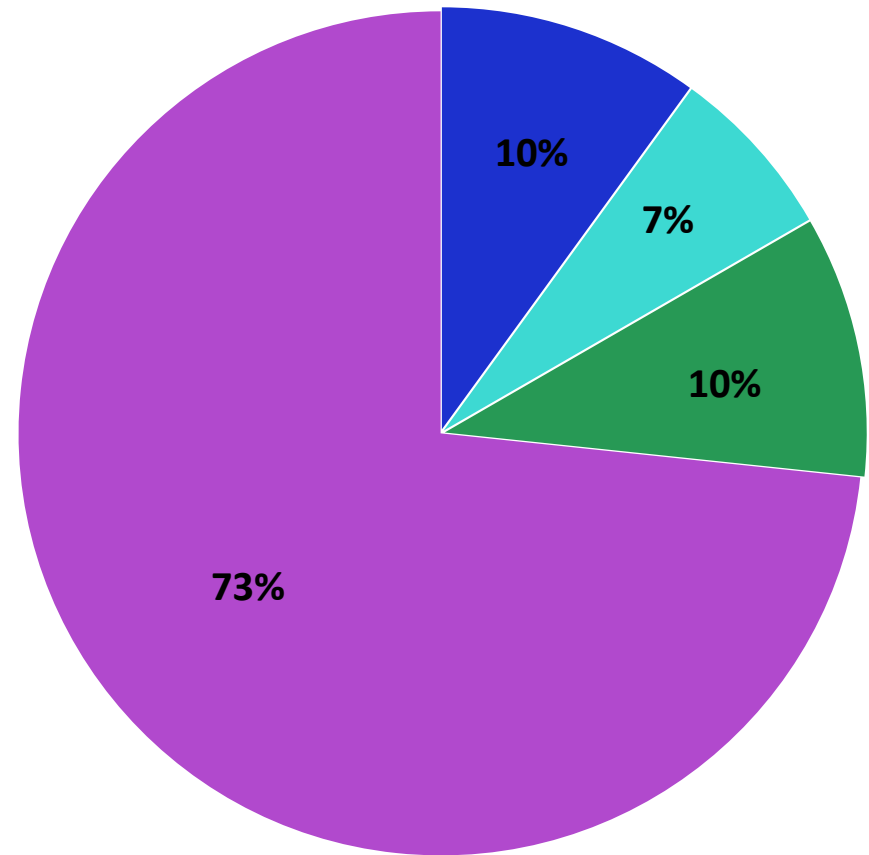
## Percent of Acreage

■ EAST ■ NORTHWEST ■ SOUTHWEST ■ TOPS



## Percent of Staff

■ EAST ■ NORTHWEST ■ SOUTHWEST ■ TOPS



## Parks & Open Space

- Palmer Park
- Garden Ranch Open Space
- Iron Horse Open Space
- Stetson Hills Open Space

## Urban Trails

- Greencrest
- Templeton Gap
- Union Meadows
- Homestead
- Rock Island
- Sand Creek
- Shooks Run
- Woodmen

# Major Projects 2020

## Eastern RPTOS (Ranger Nate Hook)



- Fire Mitigation South Canyon.
- Consistent coordination with RMFI.
- Reroute of Palmer point and Sentinel



# Major Projects 2020

Eastern RPTOS (MT Steven Sueppel)



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- Drainage corrections along Cottonwood Creek.
- Rogue bike park closure and reseeding.



## Parks & Open Space

- North Cheyenne Canon
- Bear Creek Canon
- Cheyenne Meadows
- Cresta
- Southwest Landslides
- Neal Ranch

## Urban Trails

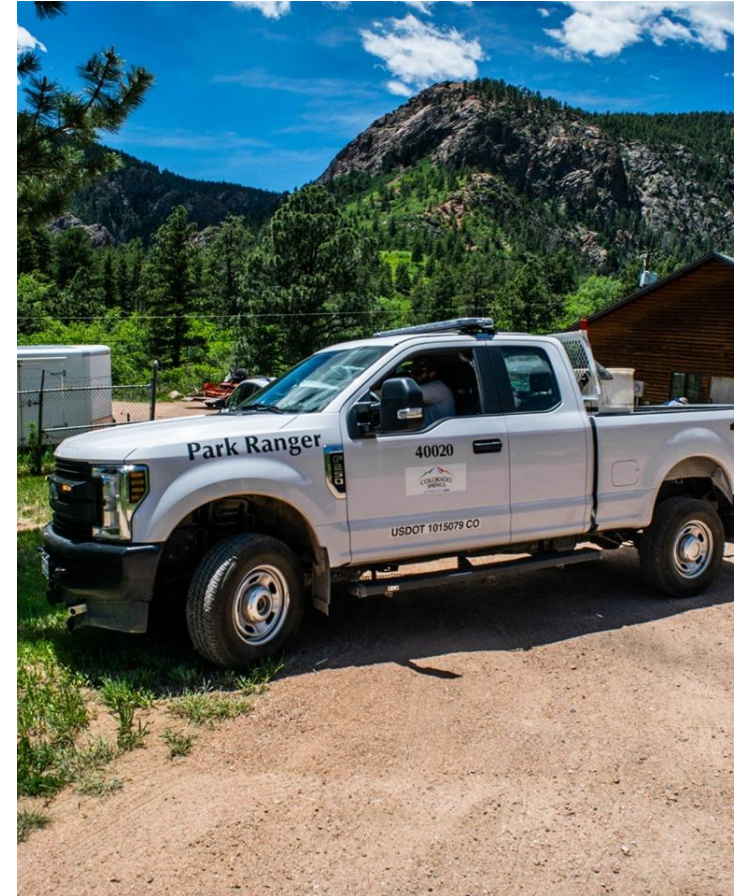
- South Greenway
- South Sand Creek

# Major Projects 2020

South RPTOS (Ranger Larry Kitt)



- Installation of our North end gate and full closure of the park at night. There has been a significant drop in all these activities that happen in our park after hours.
  - Gunfire
  - Illegals fires
  - Illegal camping
  - Car accidents
  - Drug and alcohol use
  - Morning trash
  - Graffiti
  - Vandalism
- Created “No Parking” sign packages throughout the district.



# Major Projects 2020

## South RPTOS (MT Chris Ullom)



- Greenway and Sand Creek corridor clearing and removal of hazardous trees.
- Homeless Camp Removals – KCSB - CSPD
- Completion of landslide property rehab.
- NCC also saw the construction of several new trails in anticipation of new bridge install slated for either the end of this year or the next.



## Parks & Open Space

- Austin Bluffs/Pulpit
- Ute Valley
- Blair Bridge
- Douglas Creek
- Mesa Valley
- Mountain Shadows
- Northgate Open Spaces
- Promontory Point
- Woodmen Valley
- Silent Rain
- Sinton Pond
- Sondermann

## Urban Trails

- North Greenway
- Douglas Creek
- Foothills
- Mesa
- Sinton
- La Foret
- Skyline
- Rockrimmon

# Major Projects 2020

Northwest RPTOS (Ranger Mark Tatro)



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- Trail Reroutes and improvements at Sondermann and Ute Valley.
- Ecological restoration projects at Smith Creek and Sondermann.
- Trail build at Sinton pond.
- Ute Valley Park trail map showcasing designated trails throughout.



# Major Projects 2020

Northwest Parks and Urban Trails (MT Derek Meisner)



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- Reroute at Rockrimmon.
- Resurfaced Foothills trail.
- Resurfaced Rockrimmon trail.
- Rebuilt Edmunson Trail
- Mowing trail edges



# Major Projects 2020

Natural Resource Management (Cody Bear Sutton)



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- MBTA surveys (35 days)
  - CSFD, Forestry, Construction, RPTOS
- Avian surveys (360 Point Counts)
- Wildlife monitoring
  - Prairie dog surveys
  - Game cameras
- Invasive weed mapping
  - Sondermann Project
- GIS and map making
- Multiple spurge pulls
- Bio-Blitz and CNC coordination
- Filmed multiple projects with TOPS.



# Noxious Weed Management



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- Volunteer weed removal events at multiple parks
- Continued to map weeds across all parks and assess passed spraying.
- Focused on in house projects. Pulls and spraying.

**Stratton:** Russian Olive and Myrtle Spurge removal

**RRC:** Elm removal

**Sondermann:** Large elm removal and grant application

# TOPS UPDATE



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# Major Challenges 2020



- COVID-19
- Vandalism and after hour activities
- Under funded infrastructure
- Working with other government organizations
- Lack of enforcement assistance
- Late spring snow storm damage
- Managing time between maintenance and public education
- Limited labor resources in general fund
- Cleaning up illegal dumping in parks and along trails

# Volunteering 2020



RPTOS Volunteerism in Brief:  
Volunteerism took a hit in 2020  
due to Covid but we still held  
over 50 events that included  
trash cleanups, trail maintenance,  
scientific surveys, and trail  
construction.



# Volunteering - Partners



Friends of Peregrine Parks and  
Open Spaces

Friends of Ute Valley

Friends of Garden of the Gods

Guardians of Palmer Park

Friends of Cheyenne Cañon

Cheyenne Commons

Medicine Wheel

CATS

Friends of the Incline

Friends of the Peak

Trails and Open Space Coalition

Corral Bluffs Alliance

Palmer Land Trust

Garden of the Gods Foundation

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

Rocky Mountain Field Institute

VOC

REI



## Multiple projects in:

- Palmer Park
- North Cheyenne Canon Park
- Stratton Open Space
- Red Rock Canyon Open Space
- Ute Valley Park



# Thank You!



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## Parks & Open Space

- Austin Bluffs/University Park
- Blodgett
- Red Rock Canyon
- Corral Bluffs
- Bluestem Prairie
- Stratton
- Ute Valley
- Peregrine
- Union Meadows
- Manitou Incline

## Urban Trails

- Bear Creek
- Cottonwood
- Midland
- Sand Creek

# Major Projects 2020

TOPS POC Manitou Incline (Ranger Madison Peddy)



- Helped to implement the new Free Incline Reservation System (FIRS), assists with Incline Attendant supervision.
- Helped with construction of the Northern Return Trail in order to facilitate the opening of the new trail.
- Acquired responsibility of patrolling, maintaining, and management over the Northern Return Trail.



# Major Projects 2020

TOPS POC Red Rock Canyon (Ranger Wesley Hermann)



- Parking improvements at RRCOS
- RRCOS Graffiti Removal
- Fencing at the Landfill



# Major Projects 2020



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TOPS POC Corral Bluffs/Midland Trail (Ranger Hayley Noneman)

- Transitioning in-person school programs to virtual platforms.
- Creek Week representative for the City. Litter Letter project.
- Monitoring recreational trends
  - Hash races
  - E-bikes
  - One-Wheels
  - And more!



# Major Projects 2020

TOPS POC High Chap/Bluestem (Ranger Mike Bowman)



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- New Bluestem trail system.
- WFR Scenario trainings for TOPS Rangers
- First Aid/CPR Instructor Training
- Treasurer for Rocky Mountain Ranger Association.



# Major Projects 2020

TOPS POC Ute Valley (Ranger Stephanie Fields)



- Organized Jimmy Camp Creek Park Bioblitz.
- Led creation of *Traveling Trunks* Videos
- Virtual Programming with PPLD
- Installation of new dog waste dispensers at Stratton Open Space



# Major Projects 2020

TOPS POC Stratton (Ranger Joshua Joyner)



- Working on installation of new donor sign at Stratton Open Space
- Rogue trail closures
- Catamount Institute teen outdoor programming
- Russian olive removal at Stratton Open Space



# Major Projects 2020

TOPS POC Blodgett (Ranger Caroline Ogdahl)



- Trained and Supervised PHAs.
- Blodgett Peak rogue trail assessments.



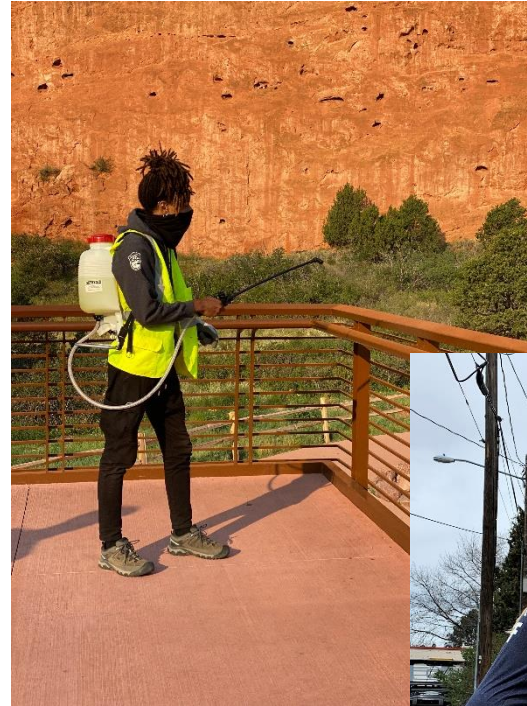
# Major Projects 2020

TOPS Ranger Supervisor (Gillian Rossi)



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- RPTOS/TOPS *Leave No Trace* Stewardship Initiative.
- Free Incline Reservation System and Incline Attendants.
- Public Health Ambassadors.
- Junior Ranger Nature Pack Expansion and Adaptation.



# Major Projects 2020

TOPS Trail Project Supervisor (Dan Allen)



- Oversee TOPS Trail Crew, maintenance operations, trail project development, annual trails assessment
- Provides program and logistical support for Trail Crew and RMFI Stewardship Contract
- Machine build 0.5-mile of New Trapper Trail at Bluestem Prairie Open Space
- Member of Colorado Trails Symposium steering committee, 3rd annual Colorado Trails Symposium was held on September 30